



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Final - Final International Relations Committee

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

6:00 PM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT For Consideration by Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on May 29, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor, J. Harris 6:03 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

- Present:** 11 - Councillor J. Harris
M. Sachkiw - Co Chair and Arras
Deputy Mayor R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston - Base Borden
C. Hassey
W. Hay
A. Jones
J. Massie
J. M. Pigeon - German Twinning
B. Sergeant - Harrogate
K. Watson - Georgian College
- Absent:** 4 - J. Babcock - Global Perspectives Program
T. Gardiner - Japan Twinning
L. Palson - Georgian College
S. Scully-Pratt - Youth Ambassadors

STAFF:

Business Development Officer, N. Gavarre
Deputy City Clerk, T. Macdonald
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, D. Glenn

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN - FINALIZING THE DELEGATION AND SISTER CITY AGREEMENT

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided updates regarding the Saginaw, Michigan Sister City Agreement that Council endorsed as well as the Draft Itinerary for the delegation. The committee will reach out to the Presidents of Saginaw and Northwood College to have them attend the signing.

The committee identified the delegates who will be attending as well as the various dates of their arrivals:

Al Jones- International Relations Committee Member
Colin Hassey - International Relations Committee Member
Jamie Massie-International Relations Committee Member
Jim Harris- City Councillor & Co-chair of International Relations Committee
Kevin Weaver- President of Georgian College
Lisa Buchanon, Manager, Mobility and Global Experience, Georgian College
Mark Sachkiw- Co-Chair of the International Relations Committee
Alex Nuttall- Mayor of the City of Barrie
Robert Thomson- Deputy Mayor of the City of Barrie & International Relations Committee Member
Stephannie Schlichter- Director of Economic and Creative Development
Wayne Hay-International Relations Committee Member

Stephannie Schlicher will verify the travel and accommodation details as well as the final itinerary and advise the committee.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair advised that the Global Group returned from their Cuba trip recently and that it was a major success. The trip length was reduced to ten days from the usual fourteen and this change was very positive.

Chair, Councillor J. Harris let the committee know that Youth Ambassadors is currently with the legal department for review.

The committee was asked their thoughts on possibly running a Youth Trip abroad in the future. The committee noted that they feel more comfortable providing support for these trips versus running one.

ZWEIBRUCKEN, GERMANY UPDATE (GERMAN DELEGATION FOLLOW UP)

Stephannie Schlichter provided a brief update regarding the Sister City relationship agreement with Germany and an update on the trade mission to the Black Forrest Region. Currently staff are looking at the first week in November for the Mayor, Council, and committee members to attend and have a tour. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Jean Maurice-Pigeon shared that today, May 7, marks the 27th anniversary of the signing of the agreement between the City of Barrie and Zweibrucken, Germany. In that time almost 1000 students have attending this program.

Bill Sergeant provided an update regarding Sleeping Children and informed the committee that he is doing a presentation to a class at Innisdale Secondary School.

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update with respect to an upcoming Europe trip for a local high school. The students will be visiting a variety of locations including London, France and Belgium on their trip and it may be possible for them to have a private tour of Vimy Ridge, including visiting the underground tunnels not normally open to the public. The committee asked if it would be possible for the group of students to visit Base Borden beforehand to see some of the trenches and to get a better understanding of Vimy Ridge. Mark and LCol Gary Johnston will connect with the school to see if a tour of Base Borden can be set up and will report back to the committee.

MURAYAMA, JAPAN FOLLOW UP

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update regarding Murayama, Japan and advised that the Council General does want to visit Barrie and tentative dates have been provided. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

HARROGATE, UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Bill Sergeant informed the group that there is no update with respect to this item. The committee discussed proclaiming June 7 as Sir Robert Barrie Day and flying the Harrogate Flag at City Hall with members of Council attending.

The committee agreed that Deputy Mayor Thomson and Mr. Sergeant will coordinate this through the Mayor's office and will advise the committee and City Clerks so that the proclamation can be added to Circulation List.

**HARROGATE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT EXCHANGE
UPDATE**

Bill Sergeant let the committee know that there is no update on this agenda item and asked it to be deferred to next meeting.

**GEORGIAN COLLEGE AND HARROGATE COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP
UPDATE**

Kelly Watson, Georgian College Representative let the committee know that the college is waiting for the funding grant to be approved and once approved she will provide an update to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) INTERPRETERS

American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters are available upon request. Please contact the Legislative Services Branch staff at 705-739-4220 Ext. 5500 or cityclerks@barrie.ca to ensure availability.